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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/828,351

Applicant(s)

KAZEMI, NIAKAM

Examiner

Cam Y T. Truong

Art Unit

2162

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/18/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7-9, 11-18, 20-23, 25 and 26.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 5, 11, 12, 14, 15-18, 23 and 25 and canceled claims 6, 10, 19 and 24 in the amendment filed 8/18/2005.

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-18, 20-23 and 25-26 are pending in this Office Action.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. In the title: Please replace the title of the application with updated title "Defect Management Database For Managing Manufacturing Quality Information".

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Michael R. Cammarata, Registration No. 39, 491 on 9/1/2005.

In the claim:

Please replace 1, 11, 14, 16 and 23 with amended claims 1, 11, 14, 16 and 23.

Claim 1. (Currently Amended)

A computer-implemented manufacturing quality information database for tracking quality information relating to a manufacturing process, comprising;

a symptom data entity storing symptoms, which are observable states indicative of manufacturing process defects;

a defect data entity storing defects of the manufacturing process;

a defect category data entity for storing defect categories of the manufacturing process;

said defect data entity being associated with said defect category data entity;

an action data entity storing repair actions for remedying related defects;

said defect data entity being associated with said symptom data entity;

and

said action data entity being associated with said defect data entity

wherein said manufacturing quality information database tracks a plurality of manufacturing processes,

the manufacturing quality information database further comprising:

a process data entity storing identities of the manufacturing processes;

a symptom category data entity storing symptom categories of manufacturing defects;

observing a relationship frequency among the manufacturing process identities, the symptom categories and the defect categories; and

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storing the relationship frequency in a process/symptom/defect frequency data entity.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended)

A computer-implemented manufacturing quality information database for tracking quality information relating to a manufacturing process, comprising:

- a symptom data entity storing symptoms, which are observable states indicative of manufacturing process defects;

- a defect data entity storing defects of the manufacturing process;

- a defect category data entity for storing defect categories of the manufacturing process;

- said defect data entity being associated with said defect category data entity;

- an action data entity storing repair actions for remedying related defects;

- said defect data entity being associated with said symptom data entity; and

- said action data entity being associated with said defect data entity,

wherein said manufacturing quality information database tracks a plurality of manufacturing processes,

the manufacturing quality information database further comprising:

- a process data entity storing identities of the manufacturing processes;

- a symptom category data entity storing symptom categories of manufacturing defects;

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an action category data entity storing action categories;

observing a relationship frequency among the manufacturing process identities, the symptom categories, the defect categories, and the action categories; and

storing the relationship frequency in a process/symptom/defect/action frequency data entity.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended)

A computer-implemented method of using a manufacturing quality information database for tracking quality information relating to a manufacturing process, comprising:

storing symptoms, which are observable states indicative of manufacturing process defects in a symptom data entity;

storing defects of the manufacturing process in a defect data entity;

storing defect categories of the manufacturing process in a defect category data entity;

associating the defect data entity being with the defect category data entity;

storing repair actions for remedying related defects in an action data entity;

associating the defect data entity with the symptom data entity;

associating the action data entity with the defect data entity;

tracking a plurality of manufacturing processes with the manufacturing quality information database,

storing identities of the manufacturing processes in a process data entity,

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storing symptom categories of manufacturing defects in a symptom category data entity;

storing action categories in an action category data entity;

observing a relationship frequency among the manufacturing process identities, the symptom categories, the defect categories, and the action categories; and

storing the relationship frequency in a process/symptom/defect/action frequency data entity.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended)

The computer-implemented method of using a manufacturing quality information database according to claim 14, further comprising:

associating the symptom data entity, the defect data entity, and the action data entity with a item data entity.

Claim 23. (Currently Amended)

The computer-implemented method of using manufacturing quality information database according to claim 14, further comprising:

observing a relationship frequency among the manufacturing process identities, the symptom categories and the defect categories; and

storing the relationship frequency in a process/symptom/defect frequency data entity.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-18, 20-23 and 25-26 are allowed.

The prior art of record, alone or in combination, does not teach or fairly suggest the combination of steps as recited in independent claim 1, wherein "the manufacturing quality information database further comprising: a process data entity storing identities of the manufacturing processes; a symptom category data entity storing symptom categories of manufacturing defects; observing a relationship frequency among the manufacturing process identities, the symptom categories and the defect categories; storing the relationship frequency in a process/symptom/defect frequency data entity";

The prior art of record, alone or in combination, does not teach or fairly suggest the combination of steps as recited in independent claim 11, wherein "the manufacturing quality information database further comprising: a process data entity storing identities of the manufacturing processes; a symptom category data entity storing symptom categories of manufacturing defects; an action category data entity storing action categories; observing a relationship frequency among the manufacturing process identities, the symptom categories, the defect categories, and the action categories and storing the relationship frequency in a process/symptom/defect/action frequency data entity"; and

The prior art of record, alone or in combination, does not teach or fairly suggest the combination of steps as recited in independent claim 14, wherein

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“storing identities of the manufacturing processes in a process data entity, storing symptom categories of manufacturing defects in a symptom category data entity; storing action categories in an action category data entity; observing a relationship frequency among the manufacturing process identities, the symptom categories, the defect categories, and the action categories; and storing the relationship frequency in a process/symptom/defect/action frequency data entity”.

The dependent claims, bring definite, further limiting, and fully enabled by the specification are also allowed.

Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cam Y T Truong whose telephone number is (571) 272-4042 . The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 272-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Cam-Y Truong
Patent Examiner
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9/1/2005